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SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, Malabar is a district where there is no District Planning Board. In view of this fact, may I know whether the Government will consider the reconstitution of the District Food Production Committee which provided an opportunity for contacts between district officials and M.L.As. and other representatives of the people? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, a compact District Planning Board is also being constituted for Malabar. That will attend to the work previously done by the District Food Production Committee."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know by which date the District Planning Board will be constituted? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member is perhaps aware that formerly there was a big comprehensive body for the district which was attending to the matter. It was now found to be too unwieldy. Therefore, the Government will be presently constituting the District Planning Board."

*Mobile medical unit for Tellicherry Government hospital.*

* 1607 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to instal a mobile medical unit with Tellicherry Government hospital as the base; and

(*b*) if so, when it is expected to be actually carried out?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under consideration."

*Steel plant for Salem.*

9–30 a.m. * 1608 *Q.*—SRI C. KANDASAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have made any proposals to the Central Government regarding the installation of a steel plant at Salem;

(*b*) if so, what they are;

(*c*) what is the quantity of iron ore which the Government expect would be mined and the total area in which this mining will be done;

(*d*) what is the provision for coal; and

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the Table of the House the papers connected with this especially in regard to clause (*a*) above?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India were requested to arrange for an expert study of the proposal for setting up an iron and steel plant in this State with the assistance of foreign experts, if necessary, and to include the scheme as a centrally sponsored one in the Second Five-Year Plan.

" (c) The iron ore deposits occur over a wide area in the Salem district and the reserves are estimated at about 304,650,000 tons. But it is too early to say in what quantity and in what areas the ores will be mined.

" (d) None at present, but carbonised lignite when available, could be used in place of coal.

" (e) The Government do not consider it necessary to place the papers on the Table of the House."

*Government hospital, Badagara.*

* 1609 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether any emergency acquisition proceedings have been started for the acquisition of a site for the extension of Badagara Government hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir."

*Transport of casuarina.*

* 1610 Q.—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petition, dated 19th January 1955, was received from the owners of casuarina plantations in Markanam village, South Arcot district, with regard to the hardship caused to them in the matter of transport of casuarina with the permission of the Forest Officers after the issue of G.O. No. 1887 (Agriculture), dated 8th June 1954; and

(b) if so, the action so far taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes. Sir, a petition, dated 19th January 1955, from a landlord of Markanam has been received.

" (b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests."

*Exemption of milk from sales tax.*

* 1611 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any copy of the resolutions passed by the Board of Directors of the Tiruchirappalli-Srirangam Co-operative Central Milk Supply Union, Limited, recently that milk be exempted from the levy of sales tax has been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?